

CHEL TEN HAM:

1490. ee. 6.

A

FRAGMENT.

WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES.

By X. Y.

"At nos virtutes ipsas invertimus."

Hor. Book 1. Sat. 3d.

LONDON PRINTED;

AND SOLD BY G. ROBINSON, PATERNOSTER-ROW; S. HARWARD,
TWEESBURY, and at his SHOPS in GLOCESTER and CHELTENHAM.

M.DCC.LXXX.

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F.R.A.C.M.E.N.T.

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CH E L T E N H A M:

F R A G M E N T.

From Joshua P-g, Esq; to his Uncle Nicholas G---l.

DEAR Uncle, great joy it must surely produce,
To hear we all safe are arrived;

We no doubt shall extol of the waters the use,
When of scurvy, and blotches deprived.

My sister, her maid, myself, and my wife,

In a coach and four horses came here;

But the place is at present quite dull on my life,

And dev'lish expensive I fear.

My wife at the Plow here, she eat very hearty,

So did I, (for good eating I love)

And so in short did all the rest of the party,

For we all love good dinners by Jove.

5

10

As

As soon as we'd din'd I resolved to see
 The rooms, and the public places,
 Subscrib'd to them all, gave the servants a fee, 15
 And star'd in the pretty girls faces.
 The pump, sir, is plac'd on the top of a walk,
 Between rows of majestic tall trees,
 Where between ev'ry glass all the company walk,
 And Temple's^a to use if you please. 20
 We lodgings have took at one M-----g's^b house,
 Three guineas per week, we're to give;
 The family is but himself, and his spouse.
 And a young lady^c come here to live.
 We have all forts, dear uncle, of good butcher's meat, 25
 But the devil a drop of good beer,
 So if you would chuse for to drink as you eat,
 The way is to brew^d it I hear.
 But here's cyder and perry,
 To make a man merry,
 Or should he drink much will get rude: 30
 Accept pray this letter,
 In place of a better,
 For here I beg leave to conclude.

Yours, &c.

J. P.-g.

a Dedicated to the goddess Cloacina.

b Not the best lodgings in hot weather, the sun lying on the rooms the whole day.

c A mistake, the young lady being only there for her health.

d There are several people in town to whom you may apply, who, for a trifle, will brew it at their own houses.

And never have seen her at church, rooms, or feast.

B

Next

g This lady having but poor health feldom stirs out except to church.

Next follows her daughter, a handsome young lady, 55
 Who each afternoon is as fine as she may be,
 An officer 'tends her wherever she goes,
 Whose principal beauty's his sword and red cloaths.

Old general H --- is a jolly old fellow, 60
 One Sunday he came to the long-walk quite mellow,^h
 And as the fine company passed along,
 For their entertainment he sung them a song.
 His wife and he've parted, a twelvemonth, or more,
 And now he of mistresses keeps half a score.

Mr. L -- g^k too is here, who us'd to be witty 65
 They say, when he liv'd in the midst of the city,
 Nay, so he is now, or in parlour, or hall,
 But the company him, Captain Evergreen call,

Mr. H -----, a gossiping, waddling old man, 70
 Who endeavours to hear all the news that he can,
 He not only does this, but what's odder my dear,
 Believes every thing, which he happens to hear.^l

The best temper'd lady that e'er I did meet,
 Lives up in a turning which leads to our street,
 Quite fond of live creatures, she idols an hog, 75
 Keeps that and four doves, a cat, and a dog;
 If her out of humour to put you desire,
 Kill the doves, lame the dog, or throw puffs on the fire.

These

^h This incident happened the latter end of May, or beginning of June.

ⁱ This is a mistake, the General at this time only keeping three.

^k A Gentleman who having got enough by trade to live comfortably on, is retir'd here to spend his days in quiet, tho' most people think he might live quiet any where, being too deaf to hear any noise.

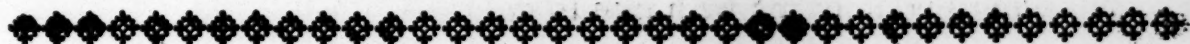
^l This, though very remarkable, is strictly true.

These only are ways you must use to give pain,
 For all other means you attempt would in vain. 80
 For only by death of her dog, or her bird,
 Would you ruffle that temper which never was stir'd.

A Gentleman too who lives near this place,
 Does good natur'd acts with a very good grace :
 He a feeble old gentleman once did attend 85
 To Buxton,^m and with him a month there did spend,
 In hopes to recover his tatter'd old frame,
 And the time being elaps'd with him back again came.
 " Perhaps he'd hopes of his fortune."---Indeed he'd not any,
 The old gent. I am sure will ne'er leave him a penny. 90
 At present more lines I'm unable to fill,
 So pray my dear Ann, for the deed take the will.

Your's, &c.

L. P-g.



Miss P--g, to Miss Patty F----k.

I Vow my dear Patty, I scarce have had time,
 To sit down and scribble a little in rhyme.
 The reason to you I will freely discover, 95
 I here, my dear Patty, have pick'd up a lover.

" A

^m Such instances are rare to be met with, and altho' an hundred people may profess themselves your friends, it is to be doubted if one of them would give such a proof as this.

"A lover! Oh strange!ⁿ what, at forty and three?"
 It may seem strange to you, but it is'n't to me;
 Though spite of my charms I was sadly afraid,
 That your dear cousin Jenny would die an old maid. 100
 This was partly my reason for coming down here,^o
 In public I being resolv'd to appear,
 Made use of cosmetics to make me look fair,
 And sent for a fellow to dress up my hair:^p
 At five in the morning I jump'd out of bed, 105
 And he, until nine, was dressing my head.
 At nine, forth I sallied, as fine as a queen,
 For the fellow indeed made me fit to be seen:
 A very smart riding-dress—green, lac'd with gold
 I put on, and quite surpris'd was to behold 110
 Myself in a glafs. I looked so smart
 I thought without doubt, I should conquer an heart.
 Nor long had I walk'd before up came a beau,^q
 And beg'd most politely me with him to go
 In his little neat whisky, by way of a joke 115
 A mile or two hence, for to see the great oak.^r
 This, indeed I refus'd, but after some talk,
 Consented 'fore breakfast to take a short walk
 To Lilliput; (nam'd by the great) but the small
 (The vulgar I mean) the place Gallipot call. 120

'Tis

n Not at all strange, considering the age of the lover she pick'd up, he being at least sixty.

o The family came from the north of England.

p Miss having liv'd far from any town (tho' so old) never had her hair *dressed* 'till she came here.

q vide page 6, line 64.

r The only three places this gentlemen takes people to see being Gloucester, Tewkesbury, and the great oak, (which is so large that fourteen men and a poney were in it at one time) the author thought the oak as worthy as either of the other places.

'Tis true, my fwain's old, but he makes up for that,
By possessing a deal of good-nature and chat.

He liv'd in the city, 'tis said, to be sure,
But that was a place he could never endure;
So determin'd to come, and to live here in quiet,

125

Remov'd from the scene of noise and of riot.^f
To-morrow, my dear, I with him take a ride,
And think that e'er long, you will hear I'm a bride;
At night, at the rooms, with my charmer I dance,
His feet moving lighter than any in France.

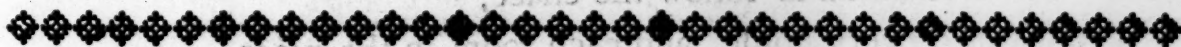
130

To you, my dear cousin, confest I've my flame,
So in my next letter will tell you his name.

Your's, &c.

P. P-g.

051



Joshua P-g, Esq; to James J-y, Esq;

inwob baad triol lls to yang, wheebol ym

ATTEND, my dear Jemmy, for once pray attend,
And listen awhile to the lines of your friend;
When first the thought struck me of here coming down,
And leaving behind me, the joys of the town."

135

C

Who

^f This was written just after the riots.

^t The writer seems to have forgot his friend was to read the letter, not have it read to him.

^u The author has here made another mistake, having declared in a former letter that the family always lived in the country.

Who could have conceived that here I should prove,
 The flames, and the darts, of the little god Love.
 T'other day as I walk'd in the fields by the town,
 A tall, handsome woman, before me sat down 140
 On a stile, which directly stood crossing the way,
 So to her, I thought, that I something would say.
 "Your face, my dear madam, a hermit would move
 "To rise from his pray'rs, and talk nothing but love;
 "All Venus's charms are plac'd in your face, 145
 "And your shape, when you move, is the shape of a Grace."
 Without deigning to answer, she darted away,
 I follow'd her, swift as a hawk to his prey;
 But she turning short down a little dark street,
 I mist her,* nor her ever after could meet. 150
 Howe'er I'm determin'd to follow the chace,
 'Till I've search'd every house, and each room in the place;
 Not a carriage shall move, or a couple shall marry,
 'Till I know the parties, and who 'tis they carry.
 But Jemmy, my cloaths, pray of all sorts send down, 155
 To make me look smart in this pert little town;
 For scandal, this place, 'fore all others is fam'd,
 Your most secret transactions are publicly nam'd,
 By the little pert miss, but just enter'd fifteen,
 By the wife, the old aunt, and the impudent quean. 160
 Here are parsons, and lawyers, phyicians, and beaus,
 With one pair of stockings, and one suit of cloaths,

Wearing

* This lady was supposed to be a remarkable handsome Bath milliner.

Wearing boots* all the morning their stockings to save,
Which to wear at the ball-room at night they must have.

As for parson's we've here, both the lean and the fat, 165
Some rich as a jew, others poor as a rat:
Some come here for the gout, got by living too high,
Whilst others with scurvy are ready to die.
For this place (like salt water a few years ago)
Cures all the diseases the faculty know. 170
Hah! a coach rattles by, I must here make an end,
So myself I subscribe, your affectionate friend

Joshua P.-g.



Mrs. P.-g. to Miss Nancy S---ds.

YOUR letter, dear Nahny, came safe to my hands,

So I freely sit down to obey your commands, 175
Here officers, players, and parsons, and taylors,
Quacks, coxcombs, and sharpers, pick-pockets and failors,
And country gentlemen, who I remember,
Will all of them go 'fore the first of September.

A clergyman too, who no character spares, 180
But good ones, or bad, all to pieces he tears.

Another

x This is very common at all public places, but especially at Bath, where those gentry may be seen in crowds.

y This description of the company is by no means a just one.

Another, who here on a Sunday does duty
 Sometimes, and is thought by himself a great beauty;
 In the service each word rises louder and louder,
 'Till he've turn'd round, why? to see his pink powder,
 With his little starch'd band, and an u-ly p-g face, 185
 He thinks himself doubtless, the king of the place;
 Such a face you and I surely somewhere have seen,
 O ay, now I think on't, 'tis just like the Q----.

A person from Bath too, is lately I hear, 190
 Come to offer himself to the company here,
 To introduce people, preside at a ball,
 As at Bath he was wont once a week at the hall.
 To couple Miss Squeez'em, and little Miss Gripe,
 With Mr. Cathartic, and young Cl----pipe.
 Mr. H----- attends him wherever he goes, 195
 Tho' in dancing he treads upon other folks toes.

Mufic, they say, has charms to sooth
 E'en savage beasts, turn age to youth,
 Mufic does more than this, my dear,
 Make dumb men speak, and deaf men hear. 200
 At least by this, I judge, my dear,
 I'm sure it makes e'en deaf men hear;
 Old L--g who can't hear any noise,
 As speaking trumpets, bellowing boys,

Or

z Mrs. P--g was of a genteel family, had spent several winters in town, consequently had seen the above-
 mention'd face, married Mr. P--g only for his estate.

Or pigs in gates, or dogs at night;^a 205
 Or squalling women in a fright.
 To music quickly turns his ear
 And either hears, or seems to hear;
 In dancing will expose his shape
 Like dancing bear, when rode by ape. 210
 And does (as I that creature saw)
 On each one near him place his paw;
 For hand I'm sure it can't be call'd,
 'Tis neither small, nor white, nor bald,
 Nor thin, nor long, nor brown, nor fair, 215
 'Tis black, and cover'd o'er with hair.
 Tho' in his palm some people say
 The hair is somewhat wore away,
 For me, I can't,^b I never saw
 The inside of his horrid paw. 220
 Inclos'd you'll find some verses made here
 On Miss L-----l, Miss H-----t, and Miss D-----e.

THE Heathen Deities, they say,
 Together got, one jovial day,
 And none dissenting in the least, 225
 It was agreed to have a feast:
 The dinner o'er, the glafs went round
 And bowls were plac'd, with nectar crown'd.

D

The

^a He sleeping very sound whilst every other person is tormented by them almost every night.

^b Suppose the lady meant, she could not affirm the truth of this, as she herself had never seen it.

The gods began a drinking bout,
 To try who'd see the other out: 230
 The goddesses made this a plea,
 To leave the room and drink their tea.
 But scarce had they began to chat,
 Of caps, and cloaks, of this, and that,
 How Phœbus urged on by hate, 235
 Shew'd Mars and Venus tete-a-tete
 To Vulcan; who in angry pet
 Enclos'd them both in iron net.
 That Jupiter had got a son
 By Alcmena; and such a one 240
 That if he liv'd 'twas thought he'd be
 Not one inch under eight feet three.
 Much there was said, and more there had,
 But Discord being very mad,
 That she was never ask'd to come, 245
 An apple threw into the room
 With this inscription, "*To the Fairest*"
 Each one abuses now her dearest
 Friends, as well as bitter foes,
 At length from words they came to blows. 250
 Each tries her beauty to exalt,
 And with her neighbours finds great fault,
 Whilst in the room each pair of eyes
 Is fixed on the golden prize;
 'Till finding to contend was vain, 255
 And Pallas striving might and main,

Cry'd.

◀ It is somewhat odd that the goddesses should talk of a persons amours whilst his wife was in company.

Cry'd, we three here will hav't between us,
Myself, dame Juno—ay, and Venus.

This done, they ~~three agree to send~~

For one, on whom they could depend,

That he unbiaſſed might give it

To her, was worthieſt to receive it.

The man^d arrives—Juno ſays, power

Encreaſe ſhall to him, hour by hour,

If he to her would give the prize,

And own the force of her fine eyes.

Then Pallas ſaid, if he'd but give

The prize to her, that he ſhould live

The wiſeſt of all mortal men.

Venus, the queen of love, roſe then,

And ſaid, but give to me the prize,

A woman with the ſweeteſt eyes,

The grac'ful'ſt ſhape, majeſtic mein,

That ever in the world was ſeen,

I unto you will ſtraight diſcover,

And ſhe ſhall chuſe you for her lover.

The youth immediately replies,

Then unto you I give the prize.

Now had the three^c of whom I write,

Appear'd before his raviſh'd fight,

260

265

270

275

280

Left

d Paris, the ſon of Priam and Hecuba, who was expoſed on mount Ida, afterwards ran away with Helen, the wife of Menelaus.

e The beauty of theſe three ladies is ſurprizing, tho' each of them poſſeſſes it in a different ſtile; one-excelling in ſhape, the other in beauty, and the other in ſweetneſs of manners, tho' moſt give the preference to Miſs L*****.

Left he should leave it undecided,
He doubtless had the prize divided.

These little idle scrawls, my dear,
Almost each week are printed here,
And tho' my husband needs will show it,
That I was never *cetera defunct.*

F I N I S

